

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended to incorporate the features of claims 17 and 18, which are canceled. Claims 1-11 and 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. However, upon allowance of claim 12, dependent claims 13-16 should be rejoined and allowed.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the July 21, 2004 personal interview. The substance of the discussions are incorporated into the following Remarks and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial and return Form PTO-1449 filed on July 7, 2004.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 12 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2001-18235 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter "Tanaka") in view of USP 2,756,460 to Heintz and claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to Tanaka in view of Heintz and further in view of JP 5-138656 (hereinafter "JP 656").

Neither Tanaka, Heintz nor JP 656 provide a slit-like aperture having a width in a range of 0.02 mm to 0.1 mm and a depth within a range of 0.1 mm to 2 mm as in the invention of amended independent claim 12.

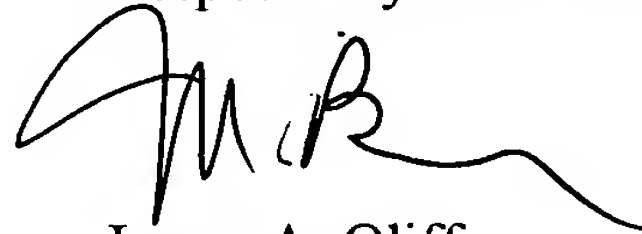
In particular, JP 656 fails to teach or suggest a slit-width and depth as in the invention of amended claim 12. In particular, JP 656 discloses (i) a conventional slit in Fig. 3 having a width "a" of about 0.3 mm and a width being "of 0.2 mm to 0.3 mm" (see, e.g., paragraph [0002]); (ii) an inventive slit 5a in Fig. 2 having a width of 0.007 mm (see, e.g., paragraph [0014]); and (iii) a comparative slit having a width of 0.005 mm (see, e.g., paragraph [0018]). Thus, none of these widths and depths disclosed have the advantages of the invention of amended claim 12 as disclosed in paragraph [0031] of the specification.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for 2nd Extension of Time.

Date: July 29, 2004

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